

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 04130 222248Z
ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4822
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4130

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB PINT EC
SUBJ: CEOSL'S JOSE CHAVEZ ON POLITICS: PULLBACK FROM UNITY

1. BEGEN SUMMARY: CEOSL PRESIDENT JOSE CHAVEZ TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD NEGOTIATED AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE GOE BY WHICH CEOSL WOULD BEGIN TO WITHDRAW FROM JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH THE MARXIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND THE GOE WOULD REVERSE ITS CURRENT HARD-LINE ATTITUDE AGAINST CEOSL. THE GOE, EXPLAINED CHAVEZ, VIEWED CEOSL AS HAVING PARTICIPATED IN COMMUNIST-INSPIRED ANTI-GOE POLITICAL ACTIVITY. END SUMMARY.

2. POL/LABOFF CALLED ON CEOSL (ECUADOREAN CONFEDERATION OF FREE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS) PRESIDENT JOSE CHAVEZ JUNE 21 AT CHAVEZ' REQUEST TO REPORT ON A JUNE 9 CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, COL. BOLIVAR JARRIN CONCERNING CEOSL'S POLITICAL FUTURE. CHAVEZ SAID THAT JARRIN HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THROUGH THE UNITY OF CEOSL WITH THE OTHER TWO CONFEDERATIONS (MARXIST/CHRISTIAN CEDOC AND THE COMMUNIST CTE) CEOSL HAD ALLOWED ITSELF TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT BEING CARRIED OUT BY A "POLITICAL PARTY" (READ COMMUNIST PARTY.) CHAVEZ REPLIED THAT CEOSL WAS DEMOCRATIC AND THAT IT HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE MARY 18 GENERAL STRIKE FOR TRADE UNION REASONS. JARRING NOTED THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 04130 222248Z

WHEN ALL THREE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS JOINTLY SIGNED ALL PUBLISHED MANIFESTOS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE THREE GROUPS.

3. ACCORDING TO CHAVEZ, HE AND JARRING STRUCK A DEAL: CEOSL WOULD BEGIN TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF GRADUALLY FROM ITS UNITY WITH THE OTHER CONFEDERATIONS AND THE GOE WOULD EXCLUDE CEOSL

FROM ITS CURRENT HARD-LINE ATTITUDE TOWARD LABOR. SPECIFICALLY, THE GOE PLEDGED NOT TO WITHDRAW CEOSL'S LEGAL STATUS (PERSONERIA JURIDICA) AS WAS DONE IN THE CASE OF UNE, THE NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION.

4. CHAVEZ STATED THAT THE FIRST STEP TAKEN UNDER THE NEW UNDERSTANDING WAS WHEN HE REFUSED TO SIGN A JOINT CONFEDERATION ANNOUNCEMENT. INSTEAD, THE PIECE WAS SIGNED BY CEDOC PRESIDENT EMILIO VELASCO AS THE CURRENT (ROTATIONAL) PRESIDENT OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS.

5. COMMENT: CHAVEZ HAS A GREAT NUMBER OF PRESSURES ON HIM AT THIS TIME TO BACK OFF THE UNITY WITH THE OTHER CONFEDERATIONS. HIS RANK AND FILE BELIEVE THAT THE OTHER CONFEDERATIONS BETRAYED CEOSL IN THE MAY 18 STRIKE AND THE CEOSL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS PASSED A RESOLUTION LIMITING THE SCOPE OF POSSIBLE JOINT CONFEDERATION ACTIVITIES. IF THESE PRESSURES ARE NOT OVERBALANCED BY OTHER PRESSURES (I.E., GOE HOSTILITY), CHAVEZ WILL LIKELY FEEL HIMSELF OBLIGED TO CONTINUE THE STEPS SO TENTATIVELY BEGUN TO GRADUALLY DISSOLVE THE SO-CALLED UNITY MOVEMENT AND PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIM AND THE COMMUNISITS. BLOOMFIELD

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